GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4766
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2002
INDIA`S PUBLIC RELATIONS WAR
SUNIL KHAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `India losing P.R. war to Pak` appearing in the Hindu dated January 18, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The article in question offers a subjective view of India-Pakistan relations based on the correspondent`s conversation with a few French journalists, whose views on the topic by no means typify overall French opinion.

(c): Suitable action is being taken by the Government to keep the French media informed and correct misperceptions. The Embassy of India in Paris has been proactive in this regard by disseminating information, holding press conferences, giving interviews, meeting and writing to the press, media personalities and opinion makers. This has led to a significant improvement in the image of India. The article under reference itself acknowledges the efforts being undertaken by the Government to keep the French media informed and also the fact that the Government of France understands the Indian position on the issue, and has express solidarity with India in the fight against terrorism.